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WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

SHELBY G. TILFORD

In recognition of his outstanding long-term, sustained contributions to Earth system science and the development of satellite programs for Earth observations.

Dr. Tilford is a world leader in promoting the use of satellite observations of the Earth from space. In his move from solar physics through upper atmospheric research to becoming the Director of NASA's Environmental Observations Division, Dr. Tilford developed a top down approach to Earth observations. In 1983 he was named NASA's Director for the Earth Science and Applications Division and served in this position until his most recent assignment as NASA's Acting Associate Administrator for Mission to Planet Earth.

Dr. Tilford has provided strong, dynamic leadership, both nationally and internationally. He led the development of the Mission to Planet Earth concept and the Earth Observing System, the centerpiece for Mission to Planet Earth. He was one of the key players who worked within the Earth Systems Science Committee of the NASA Advisory Council to formulate the first integrated, interdisciplinary, multi-agency approach to study the Earth from space. This led, in part, to the creation of the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences and the U.S. Global Change Research Program. This multi-billion dollar research program is a key to improving our understanding of the Earth as a complex, integrated life support system.

Internationally, Dr. Tilford has developed critical partnerships with many of the other space-faring nations of the world. For example, Japan, the European Space Agency, and Canada are key partners in the Earth Observing System. Dr. Tilford has championed open data policies responsive to the needs of the international research community. An articulate spokesperson, he consistently emphasized the importance of long-term monitoring and observations using remotely sensed data to increase our understanding of the Earth System. He continues to work with Congress, other Federal agencies, the science community, industry, and NASA's partner agencies in other nations in leading these efforts.

Dedication, unselfish commitment, and enormous amounts of hard work have been the hallmarks of Dr. Tilford's career. He is respected by the science community, policy makers, and his fellow workers. Among his many recognitions, he has received a Presidential Rank Award and NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal. For his contributions on behalf of the Earth science community, Dr. Tilford was elected a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society.

For his outstanding long-term and continuing accomplishments toward the understanding of the Earth by means of remote sensing, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of the Interior take great pleasure in presenting the 1992 William T. Pecora Award to Dr. Shelby G. Tilford.

A cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Harbo".

Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

A cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Babbitt".

Secretary of the Interior